

Message Text

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20

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 L-03 AID-05 IGA-01 MC-02 DODE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EB-07 OMB-01 /036 W

----- 005811

R 230745Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9791

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CINCPAC HI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR BM VN

SUBJ: BURMESE INTEREST IN ACQUIRING SURPLUS INDO-CHINA MILITARY
MATERIAL

REF: RANGOON 1635

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. SENIOR BURMESE MILITARY OFFICERS HAVE NOW CONFIRMED TO ME AND TO DATT THAT ONE PURPOSE OF OPENING MISSION IN HANOI (REFTEL) AND APPOINTING DIRECTOR OF ORDNANCE AS AMBASSADOR IS TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF ACQUIRING SURPLUS MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM INDO-CHINA. ONE SENIOR OFFICER INQUIRED, HALF-FACETIOUSLY BUT ALSO HALF-SERIOUSLY, WHAT USG REACTION TO ANY SUCH PURCHASES WOULD BE.

2. IT SEEMS SOMEWHAT UNLIKELY BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE THAT ONE OR MORE OF THE INDO-CHINA GOVERNMENTS MIGHT BE WILLING TO SELL GUB CERTAIN ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT ORIGINALLY ACQUIRED UNDER MAP/MASF. IN ANY CASE, I ANTICIPATE FURTHER GUB PROBES AS TO WHETHER WE WOULD OPPOSE SUCH TRANSFERS. IT SEEMS CLEAR TO US THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO HAVE ABANDONED EQUIPMENT OF U.S. ORIGIN IN BURMESE HANDS THAN IN THOSE OF HANOI-CONTROLLED REGIMES.

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3. WITHOUT ATTEMPTING TO ANTICIPATE SPECIFIC CASES, I WOULD

APPRECIATE INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW USG WOULD VIEW SALE OR TRANSFER
OF MAP/MASF EQUIPMENT FROM INDO-CHINA TO GUB.
OSBORN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PROCUREMENT, POLICIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975RANGOO01701
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750217-0686
From: RANGOON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750624/aaaaavzu.tel
Line Count: 64
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 RANGOON 1635
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BURMESE INTEREST IN ACQUIRING SURPLUS INDO-CHINA MILITARY MATERIAL
TAGS: PFOR, BM, VN, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006